

Message Text

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ORIGIN EB-07

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 IO-11 ISO-00 COME-00 STR-04 FEA-01

SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 AGR-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00

DODE-00 FRB-03 H-02 INR-07 INT-05 L-03 LAB-04 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-01 AID-05 CIEP-01 SS-15 ITC-01 TRSE-00

PRS-01 SP-02 OMB-01 AF-06 ARA-06 EA-07 EUR-12 OIC-02

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APPROVED BY EB/OT/GCP:SAHMAD

COMMERCE:DSCHLECHTY

STR:SLANDE

EB/CSB/OSB:JGRAHAME

EB/OT/GCP:CBLACK

NEA/INS:BBROWN

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USDEL MTN GENEVA IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI IMMEDIATE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE STATE 085283

E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: ETRD, MTN, IN

SUBJECT:MTN TROPICAL PRODUCTS: REQUESTS FOR CONCESSIONS
FROM INDIA FOR APRIL 9 TROPICAL PRODUCT BILATERAL
CONSULTATION

1. MTN DEL IS REQUESTED IN LIGHT OF THE U.S. OFFERS ON
MICA PRODUCTS TO ADD THE FOLLOWING TO THE REQUESTS FOR
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U.S. CONCESSIONS FROM INDIA UNDER NON-TARIFF MEASURES:

THE U.S. REQUESTS THE GOI TO PROVIDE ACCESS GUARANTEES UNDER WHICH U.S. MICA IMPORTERS WOULD BE FREE TO PLACE THEIR MICA ORDERS WITH INDIAN MICA SUPPLIERS OF THEIR CHOICE.

2. INDIA IS THE PRINCIPAL SUPPLIER OF MUSCOVITE MICA TO THE U.S. TRADE IN MICA INVOLVES COMPLEX QUALITY GRADES. THE GOI CURRENTLY REQUIRES THAT 40 PERCENT OF EXPORT ORDERS FOR INDIAN MICA BE PLACED WITH THE STATE-OWNED MICA TRADING CORP. OF INDIA (MITCO), WITH FOREIGN BUYERS FREE TO PLACE THE REMAINING 60 PERCENT OF THEIR ORDERS WITH INDIAN PRIVATE MICA SUPPLIERS OF THEIR CHOICE. U.S. TRADERS EXPERIENCE IS THAT MITCO DOES NOT EXERCISE CONTROL OF QUALITY AND GRADES WHICH THEY REQUIRE AND THEY STRESS THE IMPORTANCE OF THEIR RELIANCE ON TRADITIONAL

SUPPLIERS BECAUSE OF THESE QUALITY PROBLEMS. AS A RESULT THERE HAS BEEN A REDUCTION IN U.S. ORDERS FOR INDIAN MICA. U.S. MICA IMPORTERS ARE WILLING TO TREAT MITCO AS AN ORDINARY SUPPLIER, AND TO PLACE ORDER WITH MITCO IN THOSE CASES WHERE THEY FEEL MITCO CAN MEET THE NECESSARY QUALITY REQUIREMENTS, BUT THEY ARE OPPOSED TO THE GOI REQUIREMENT FORCING THEM TO PLACE 40 PERCENT OF THEIR ORDERS WITH MITCO. WE UNDERSTAND THAT AS THE RESULT OF U.S. MICA IMPORTER COMPLAINTS, AS WELL AS THOSE OF THE PRIVATELY OWNED SECTOR OF THE INDIAN MICA INDUSTRY, THE GOI IS CONSIDERING RELAXING ITS 40-60 ORDER SHARING REQUIREMENT BUT WE ALSO WISH TO PROCEED WITH THE REQUEST IN TROPICAL PRODUCTS. SISCO

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